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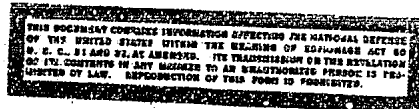
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SOURCE Bashkimi.

CONFERENCE OF SHNUM, ALBANIAN PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION

On 18 - 19 May 1952, Albania's paramilitary organization, the SHNUM (Shoqëria për Ndihmë Udhëtrise dhe Mbrojtje, Society for the Support of the Army and Defense), held its second annual conference. The SHNUM was established in December 1949 on the basis of a decree issued by the Central Committee of the Albanian People's Republic. The SHNUM is patterned after the Soviet DOSZAK, and according to its statute, has the purpose of "developing among the working masses and all citizens of the Albanian People's Republic the spirit of patriotism, of disseminating military and military-technical knowledge, of encouraging military sports, and of preparing the masses for the defense of Albania, thus providing assistance to the army in the defense of national independence and integrity, democracy, and peace."

The SHNUM, under the personal direction of Enver Hoxha, has made considerable advances during the past 2 years, and thousands of Albanian citizens have participated in the special courses offered by this organization.

The proceedings of the second national conference were reported in the 19 May Bashkimi as follows:

The progress and status of the SHNUM were reviewed in detail. Col Sadik Bekteshi, who gave the opening speech, analyzed the achievements and status of the organization, paying special attention to its accomplishments in the teaching of radio and telephone operation, motor vehicle driving, medical aid, military sports, and marksmanship. Especial mention was made by Bekteshi of the excellent work done by the SHNUM in Tirana, Shkoder, Durres, Korce, Fier, Berat, and Elbasan cities.

On the negative side, he scored the unsatisfactory work of the national headquarters of the SHNUM, which had failed to maintain effective liaison with local units and other mass organizations, and the low level of discipline exhibited by a number of SHNUM units throughout the land.

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Further adverse criticism was offered by other SHNUM delegates, and, in particular, the delegate from Pogradec, who attacked the lack of assistance rendered by the national headquarters in his area. According to him, 9 months elapsed in 1951 before the national headquarters sent a single representative to observe the work being done at Pogradec.

Another speaker, Col Taki Koloneci, emphasized the fact that the SHNUM, like its Soviet counterpart, DOSAKM, operates on a volunteer and nonremunerative basis. He took sharp issue with the view that SHNUM leaders and instructors ought to receive salaries.

Myrit Tozore, member of the SHNUM Liaison Committee for Tirana pointed out that the organization could avoid the outlay of cash by depending entirely on volunteer efforts and on the employment of surplus and used materials of various types, as had been done in a number of wreaths.

A new directorate of the SHNUM, consisting of the following 11 persons, was elected: Col Petrit Duma, chief of the SHNUM; Maj Gen Spiro Moisiu; Capt Pandel Vazeti; Sotir Kamberi, secretary of the Trade Unions of Albania; Kejo Myrtiu, general secretary of the BOSH (League of Albanian Women); Marike Isak, secretary of the BHPSH (League of Albanian Working Youth); Iliaz Lipivani, chairman of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sports; Lt Col Merkur Celso; Vera Fojani, head of the Albanian Red Cross; Fadri Baboci, Deputy Minister of Education; and Medar Shqytilla, Minister of Health.

The following persons also participated in the second national conference of the SHNUM:

Genl Busheli, secretary, Central Committee, BHPSH.
Lt Col Ferit Radsticks
Deshmor Mammqi
Toku Jano, SHNUM delegate from Fier
Sotir Mace, SHNUM delegate from Pezomkopi
Shaban Gjoni, SHNUM delegate from Tepelene
Ali Rizai, SHNUM delegate from Durres
Qamil Haxhiu, SHNUM delegate from Gjinokaster
Vangel Meci, SHNUM delegate from Tirana
Myrtaza Alimarko, SHNUM delegate from Corvode
Frank Caka, SHNUM delegate from Lez
Margarita Thanasi, SHNUM delegate from Fier
Zogel Ismail, SHNUM delegate from Pake
Mina Qaraci, SHNUM delegate from Elbasan
Naqo Zhuti, secretary of the council of Kolonje Breth
Vasilika Ciko, leading SHNUM member, Tirana
Marko Gjini, chief, motor vehicle committee, Durres

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